THE

Lives, Tranſactions,

AND

Laſt Dying Speech

Of the unfortunate

MALEFACTORS

Who were Executed on Wedneſday laſt for various crimes they had committed, oppoſite the Debtor's Door, Newgate.

May 15 1799

PRICE ONE PENNY.

THE

Lives, Tranſactions, &c.

ON Friday, the 10th Inſtant the Recorder made his report to a cabinet council appointed for that purpoſe of the priſoners who received ſentence of death at the ſeſſions of February laſt, when the following criminals were ordered for execution on Wedneſday next, viz. James Turnbull for robbing his Majeſty's Mint in the Tow

Tower, Hugh Campbell for forgery, William Harper for forging a ſeamen's will, Joſeph Walker for forgery, and Charles Seymour Wiltſhire for a like crime.

James Turnbull was a native of Northamptonſhire, and received from his parents, who were poor working people, as good an education as their limitted circumſtances would permit them to give him.

As he grew to riper years he gave evident proofs of a natural propenſity to idleneſs, and conſequently a diſlike to following any kind of employment which required the exertion of induſtry.

When grown to man's eſtate, being a man of low humour, and rather of a ſprightly diſpoſition, he was engaged by an itinerent quack Doctor in the capacity of a Merry Andrew.

In this employ he continued for ſome time

time; giving great ſatisfaction to his maſter, and by low wit recommending the efficacy of his maſter's noſtrums greatly added to the ſale of them.

After having engaged himſelf in ſeveral other like ſituations for ſome time, and finding the finances they procured fell greatly ſhort of his expectation, he inliſted for ſoldier in one of the battallions of the guards, and conſequently came to London.

As a ſoldier he obſerved a ſtrict attention to his duty, and when a draft was made for troops to go to the continent was among the number who were ſent. Being naturally of a bold and daring ſpirit his behaviour on every trying occaſion recommended him to the notice of his officers, who conſidered him as a brave good ſoldier.

On the recall of the Britiſh troops on the continent he returned, with the battalion to England, which ſoon after was ordered to do duty in the Tower. As is cuſtomary in

in that garriſon he was employed as a labourer by the officers of the Mint, and his department in that employ happened to be in that office where the gold coinage was carried on.

The temptation of ſeeing ſo much gold was too much for him to reſiſt without wiſhing to poſſeſs himſelf of a conſiderable part of it, for which purpoſe, having laid the plan, and aided by his daring ſpirit, he effected by returning to the office when the other labourers were gone to dinner, under a pretence of having left ſome cloaths he wanted, and with loaded piſtols threatning the lives of thoſe who were to guard the office if they did not ſubmit to be confined, he ſeized the opportunity, and for ſome time he made his eſcape.

Soon after his committing this daring robbery he became acquainted with Brice and Pollard, (who were tried the ſame ſeſſions, and ſentenced to be heavily fined and impri-

impriſoned in Newgate.) Theſe men furniſhed him with gold of an earlier date at a diſcount of 6s. for every guinea; ſo that he got rid of a conſiderable part of his booty.

Thus furniſhed he left London, and for ſome time evaded every ſearch that was made for him, though a reward of one hundred pounds were offered for apprehending him, till at laſt he was diſcovered by the maſter of a veſſel on the coaſt of Kent, by offering a conſiderable ſum to be carried over to the continent, who, by the aſſiſtance of proper officers brought him to London, where his perſon was identified, and the fact being clearly proved on his trial, he received the ſentence which was executed on him.

William Harper, though aſked, refuſed to give any other account of himſelf, than that his parents were people in low circumſtances, but where he would not mention. He appeared to be an old offender in the

crime

crime for which he ſuffered; for when informed by the agents appointed to pay prize money that the will he offered was forged, he perſiſted in it's validity, by which means he was apprehended.

While under ſentence he behaved tolerable decent, but inſiſted on his innocency, and at the place of execution appeared to meet his fate with a ſeeming reſignation.

Hugh Campbell came of creditable parents in the north of England, who had given him a decent education, but being unable to ſupport himſelf in the character he wiſhed to appear in, he had the fatal recourſe of perſonating an officer in one of the northern fencible regiments. His behaviour while under ſentence and at the place of execution were becoming a man in his dreadful ſituation, and confeſſed the juſtneſs of his ſentence.

Joſeph Walker, careſully concealed from what part of England he came, that, as he

he ſaid, his friends may not partake of the ignominy of his unhappy end. His whole behaviour plainly ſhewed he ſincerely repented of the crime for which he ſuffered, and at the place of execution appeared calm, compoſed, and perfectly reſigned to his fate.

Copy of a Letter ſent by James Turnbull to his Mother the Night before his Execution.

HONORED MOTHER,

LONG before this reaches you I ſhall be no more. I own the juſtneſs of my ſentence. Grieve not for me; for however I may appear to the world, be aſſured that in a lively hope of being forgiven my manifold ſins died your unworthy ſon JAMES TURNBULL.

FINIS.